

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Extension Service

Reserve

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H2A23

Agenda for Conference

Committee of State Leaders of Home Demonstration Agents

1. The group will function as a committee of the whole with appropriate sub-committees to study problems which face home demonstration workers and rural families in postwar situations. The findings of these sub-committees will be brought before the committee of the whole for its consideration. Discussion will center around (a) an analysis of some of these problems and their implications in program making; (b) matters of policy, procedure, relationships, and appraisal.

- a. An expanded program in the field of family living.

It is assumed that the educational program in home demonstration work will give emphasis to postwar problems in the field of food and nutrition, clothing, and household management. It is anticipated that increasing attention will be given to problems in the field of health and medical care, housing, farm and home financial planning, parent education and family life interests, leisure interests of family members, community welfare, consumer education, citizenship responsibilities. The latter involves our responsibility to people of other cultures, of other countries; our responsibility to be informed regarding public problems of concern to all citizens.

- b. Matters of policy, procedure, relationships and appraisal.

- (1) Expansion of home demonstration work with Bankhead-Flannagan funds considering especially: How can we supply the demand for new workers? What problems face us in placing home demonstration agents in all counties?

- (2) Reaching more people: Youth, new families, farm, rural nonfarm, village and small town families not now active in extension work.

- (3) Extending home demonstration work into urban areas. How can it be financed? To what extent can it be done with present personnel?

- (4) Organizing and developing the program considering especially such questions as:

How insure that the program is based on real needs and is educationally sound?

How encourage greater flexibility?

How provide more adequately for individual differences?

How insure that the program is democratically planned and executed?

How provide for further development of volunteer leaders?

- (5) How extension can strengthen its own organization: relationships within the staff, assignment of responsibilities, etc.

- (6) An appraisal of the home demonstration organization at the community and county levels.
What are its strengths? What are its limitations? How can it be made more effective?
 - (7) Emphasizing the family approach in developing extension programs.
What is meant by the family approach? To what extent is it used at present? How can it be stressed further?
 - (8) A coordinated approach to home and community problems.
What have we learned from our experience with nutrition committees? How can we apply this experience in other fields of work?
 - (9) Personnel problems
What can be done to interest more young women in extension work? What kind of training should be provided--pre-service, induction, in-service?
How stimulate more extension workers to carry on graduate work in home economics and related fields?
What provision should be made for sabbatic leave? For retirement? For a better salary schedule?
 - (10) Extension work and research
Relation between a forward looking extension program and research in biological and physical sciences, in social sciences.
Plans in process to expand opportunities for research in extension methods.
 - (11) How can we do a better job of informing the public about the home demonstration program?
 - (12) What are some developments in the administration of land-grant colleges that concern the Extension Service?
2. The recommendations arrived at will be sent to all directors and State leaders for consideration and discussion. This will be followed by regional conferences of the supervisory staff in home demonstration work and (possibly by a National conference) for further consideration.
 3. The sessions Monday, September 24, will be general sessions. Discussions will be led by Director Wilson, Mr. Hochbaum, Dr. Stout, Dr. Stiebeling, Dr. Margaret Reid, P. V. Kepner. The other days will be work sessions. Details of the program for all but the first day will be arranged with the group at the Monday session. If sub-committees wish to invite as consultants representatives of the various bureaus of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, this will be arranged.